

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05158 080637Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, JA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: SEATTLE-JAPAN SERVICE INVESTIGATION

REF: A) MANILA 4509 (NOTAL) B) 75 STATE 298971 (NOTAL)

1. LARGE DELEGATION COMPOSED OF REPS FROM UNITED AIRLINES, CHICAGO AND LOCAL REP PLUS ARTHUR D. LITTLE VICE PRESIDENT HERMANN (REFTEL A) CALLED ON ECON MINISTER AND OTHER EMBOFFS AFTERNOON OF APRIL 7. PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS US-JAPAN BILATERAL AVIATION RELATIONS AND TO OBTAIN GENERAL INFORMATION ON FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF JAPANESE ECONOMY FOR USE IN SUPPORTING UNITED AIRLINES APPLICATION TO BE DESIGNATED ADDITIONAL SEATTLE-JAPAN CARRIER. WE UNDERSTAND SUPPORTING DOCUMENT MUST BE FILED WITH USCAB BY MAY 26.

2. GROUP WAS INTERESTED ASCERTAINING TO WHAT EXTENT GOJ COULD BE EXPECTED OPPOSE DESIGNATION OF ANOTHER U.S. CARRIER AND TO WHAT EXTENT GOJ COULD INFLUENCE ACTUAL CARRIER CHOICE.

3. WE INDICATED THAT, ALTHOUGH TREATY CLEARLY GIVES USG RIGHT OF DESIGNATING AS MANY CARRIERS AS IT WISHES, GOJ COULD BE EXPECTED OPPOSE DESIGNATION ANOTHER CARRIER ON GROUNDS THAT PRESENT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS ARE TOO CROWDED AND LONG LINE OF OTHER NATION'S

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 05158 080637Z

CARRIERS ARE WAITING TO BEGIN SERVICE TO JAPAN. WE

ALSO POINTED OUT THAT GOJ ALREADY CONCERNED ABOUT PRESENT LEVEL OF TRANS-PACIFIC CAPACITY. BOTH PROBLEMS COULD BE SOLVED ONCE NARITA OPENS, AND ESPECIALLY IF GOJ WINS TRANS-PACIFIC CAPACITY AGREEMENT WITHIN LIMITS OF WHICH JAL AND US CARRIERS WOULD HAVE TO OPERATE.

4. UNITED EXECUTIVES STATED THEY FEEL THEIR BEST SELLING POINT TO THE GOJ WOULD BE UNITED'S ABILITY, GIVEN ITS EXTENSIVE US DOMESTIC NETWORK, TO CHANNEL US VISITORS TO JAPAN. UNITED FAIRLY CONFIDENT THEY CAN GET BACKING OF JAL BUT WE BELIEVE THEY FAR TOO OPTIMISTIC.

5. DELEGATION ALSO ASKED WHEN NEXT ROUND OF US-JAPAN AVIATION TALKS WILL BE HELD. WE INDICATED, TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, SECOND INFORMAL ROUND WOULD TAKE PLACE WASHINGTON MID-MAY ALTHOUGH TWO JCAB MEMBERS HOPE MAKE "COURTESY CALLS" IN WASHINGTON WEEK APRIL 11 ON WAY HOME FROM MEXICO.

6. WE ALSO PROVIDED GROUP WITH UNCLASSIFIED EMBASSY REPORTS ON US-JAPAN TRADE AND THE ECONOMY AND RECOMMENDED VARIOUS MITI AND EPA PUBLICATIONS.

7. SINCE OTHER CARRIERS MAY APPROACH U.S., WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT KEEPING US ADVISED ON MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN SEATTLE SERVICE INVESTIGATION AND INDICATION ROLE STATE LIKELY TO PLAY.
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